

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 DODE-00 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SS-20

EUR-25 SP-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 DRC-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 /136 W

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O 260900Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4156

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ATRN, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN NUCLEAR SHIP MUTSU

REF: TOKYO 10425

1. JAPAN'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP "MUTSU" LEFT ITS HOME SERVICE DOCK IN MUTSU CITY AT 1245 AM (JST) MONDAY AUG 26 UNDER DIESEL POWER TO BEGIN NUCLEAR PRE-OPERATIONAL TESTS AT SEA. THE MUTSU WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART 9:00 AM SUNDAY FOR A MID-PACIFIC TEST SITE LOCATED 500 MILES EAST OF MUTSU CITY, BUT WAS DELAYED BY AOMORI PREFECTURE FISHERMEN WHO LASHED THEIR BOATS TOGETHER TO FORM A BARRIER AROUND THE DOCKED SHIP. SOME TIED UP TO ANCHOR CHAIN OF MUTSU. THE AOMORI MARTIME SAFETY OFFICE TRIED TO DISPERSE THE FLOATING PICKET LINE BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. THE SHIP WAS FINALLY ABLE TO LEAVE PORT ABOUT FIFTEEN HOURS LATER WHEN FISHERMEN WERE FORCED TO RETREAT AND SEEK SHELTER FROM APPROACHING TROPICAL STORM MARY. THE MUTSU WILL

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SAIL FOR ABOUT 48 HOURS UNDER ITS AUXILLIARY DIESEL

ENGINES TO THE TEST SITE. THERE IT IS PLANNED TO CARRY OUT CRITICALITY TESTS FOR ABOUT 3 WEEKS AND THEN TO RETURN TO ITS SERVICE DOCK ON SEPT. 14.

2. TODAY, AUG 26, IN THE WAKE OF MUTSU'S LEAVING PORT STATE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND STA DIRGEN KINJI MORIYAMA TOLD AMBASSADOR HODGSON DURING A COURTESY CALL AT THE STA THAT THE MUTSU DID NOT SAIL QTE UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS UNQTE. COMMENT: MORIYAMA WAS OBIOUSLY REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE FULL CONSENT FOR THE SAILING FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OR FISHERMENS COOPERATIVES. THE FISHERMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WHOSE OPPOSITION TO THE NUCLEAR SHIP HAVE KEPT THE MUTSU TIED UP FOR MORE THAN 21 MONTHS AFTER CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETED FEAR THAT OPERATION OF THE NUCLEAR SHIP WILL CREATE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OR A RUMOR OF CONTAMINATION IN MUTSU BAY. ON AUG 19 THE MAYOR OF MUTSU CITY HAD ASKED FOR A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE SHIP SAFETY AS A CONDITION FOR HIS CONSENT. A MEANINGFUL RE-EXAMINATION IN SUCH A SHORT TIME WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY REPORT THAT A RE-EXAMINATION HAS BEEN DONE.

HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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